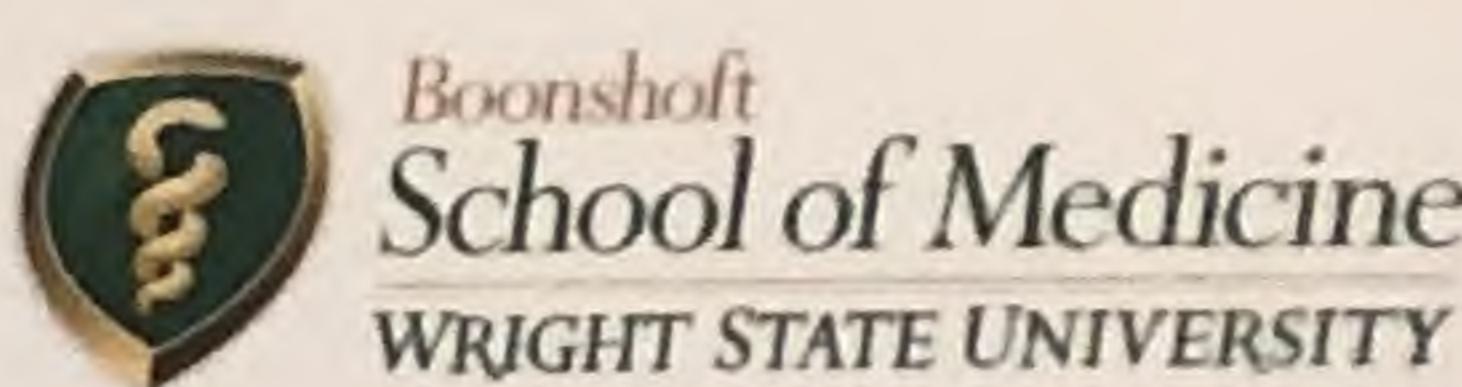


The Association of Perfluoroalkyl Substances and Renal Function in NHANES 2015–2016 Population

Katelynn Alcorn M.P.H., Sabrina Neeley Ph.D., M.P.H., and Naila Khalil M.B.B.S., Ph.D., M.P.H.
Department of Population and Public Health Sciences



Background

Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) are manufactured compounds widely used in consumer products. These products include food packaging, cookware, textiles, fire-extinguishing foam, among others.¹ The U.S. National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) conducted in 2011–2012 detected PFAS compounds in serum of 97–100% of sampled individuals aged 12 years or older.²

Research suggests the renal system is a main site of PFAS metabolism, due to both storage and excretion of PFASs by the kidneys.³ There are growing concerns and evidence for adverse effects of PFASs on kidney function, yet many gaps in understanding exist.

Methods

A cross-sectional analysis of data from 1953 participants aged 12 or older from 2015–2016 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey was completed. Five serum PFASs analytes were assessed including Perfluorooctanoic acid (n-PFOA), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (n-PFOS), and sum of perfluoromethylheptane sulfonate isomers (Sm-PFOS). Renal function was evaluated as serum creatinine. This study used de-identified data, therefore review by the IRB was not required.

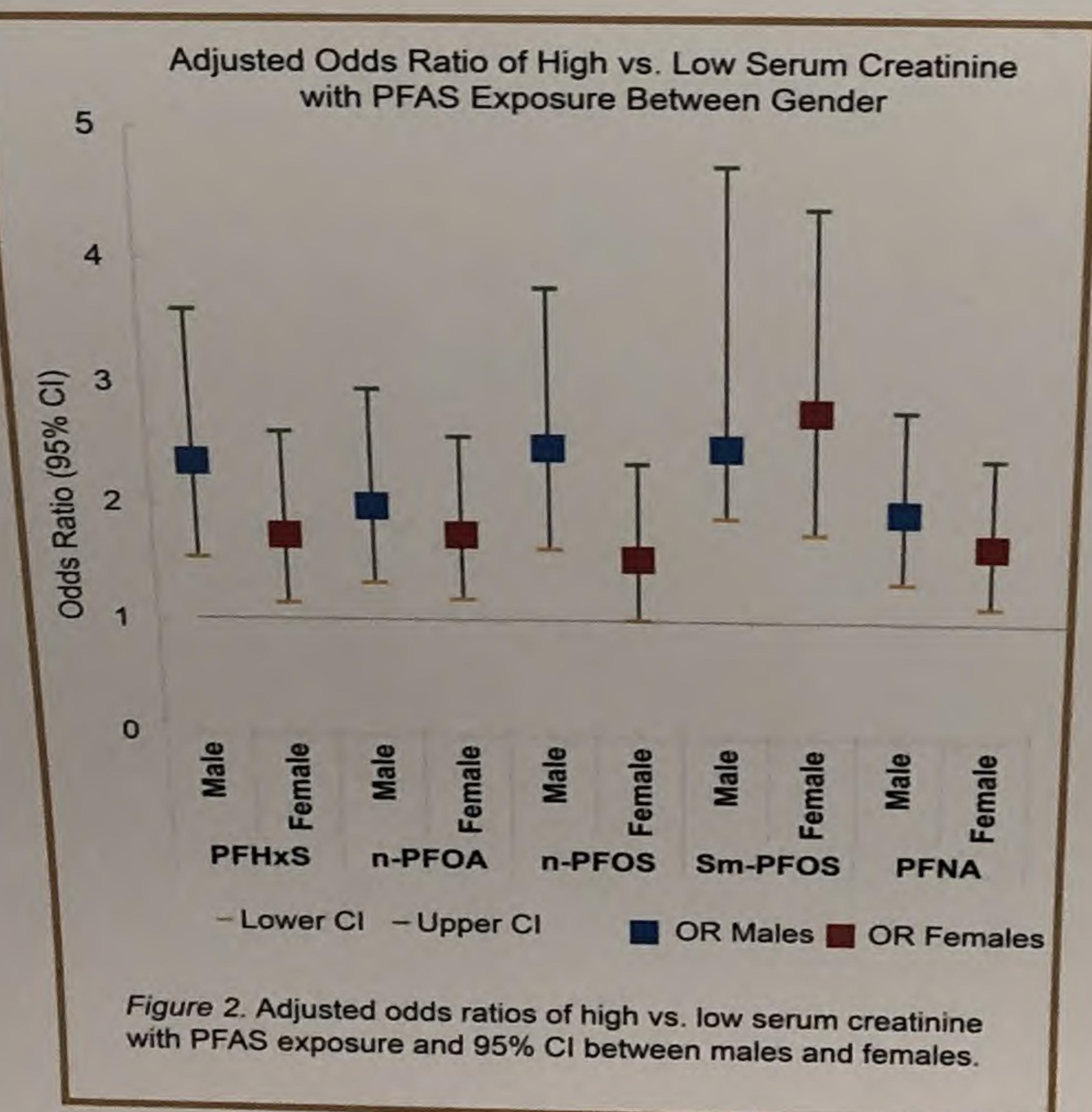
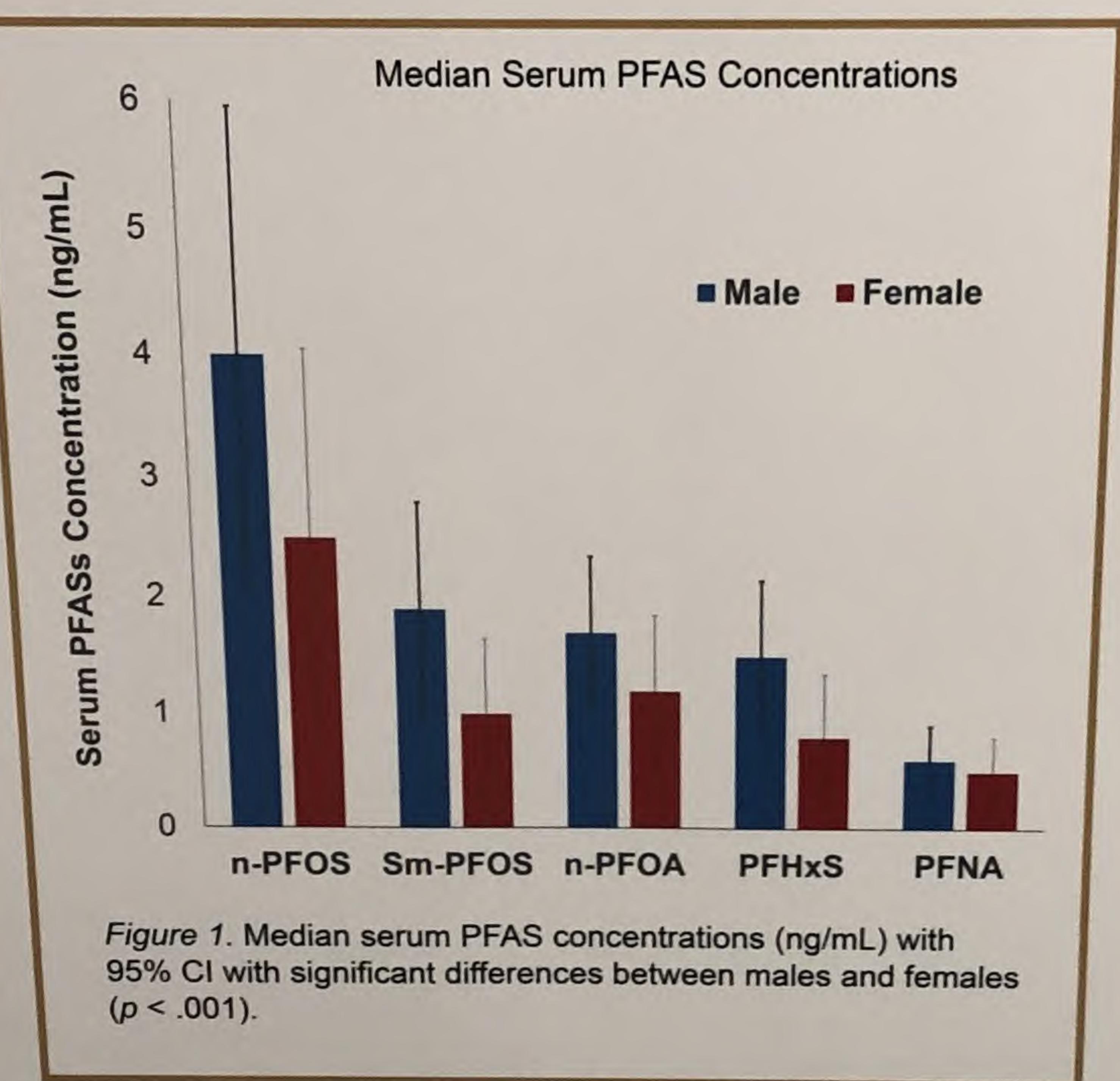
Results

Figure 1 displays male and female median concentrations for each PFAS. Medians were larger for all five PFASs in males compared to females ($p < .001$). The highest concentration PFAS was found to be n-PFOS, with an overall median of 3.2 ng/mL.

In adjusted analysis for socio-demographics, and BMI, as compared to the lowest tertile of serum PFASs, the medium and high tertiles had a significantly increased risk of elevated serum creatinine levels for all five analytes in overall models.

The strongest association was seen for Sm-PFOS; medium tertile had 95% higher risk: 1.95(95% CI: 1.47 to 2.59, $p < .001$) and highest tertile had 149% higher risk: 2.49 (95 % CI: 1.78 to 3.48, $p < .001$) of elevated serum creatinine, respectively.

Results



Results Continued

Figure 2 displays adjusted analysis results for males and females. Figure 2 demonstrates that in both men and women the association of significantly increased risk of elevated serum creatinine levels for all five analytes in overall models remains. The strongest association was seen for Sm-PFOS where the highest tertile had 198% and 177% higher risk of elevated serum creatinine respectively for men and women.

Further compared to the lowest respective tertile of serum PFASs, the medium tertiles of PFASs in males had a significantly increased risk of elevated serum creatinine levels in PFHxS, n-PFOS and for all analytes in females ($p < .001$ for all).

Discussion and Conclusion

Our results suggest PFASs are associated with reduced renal function in the healthy US population. These findings agree with previous research that has suggested the adverse effects of PFASs on renal function.

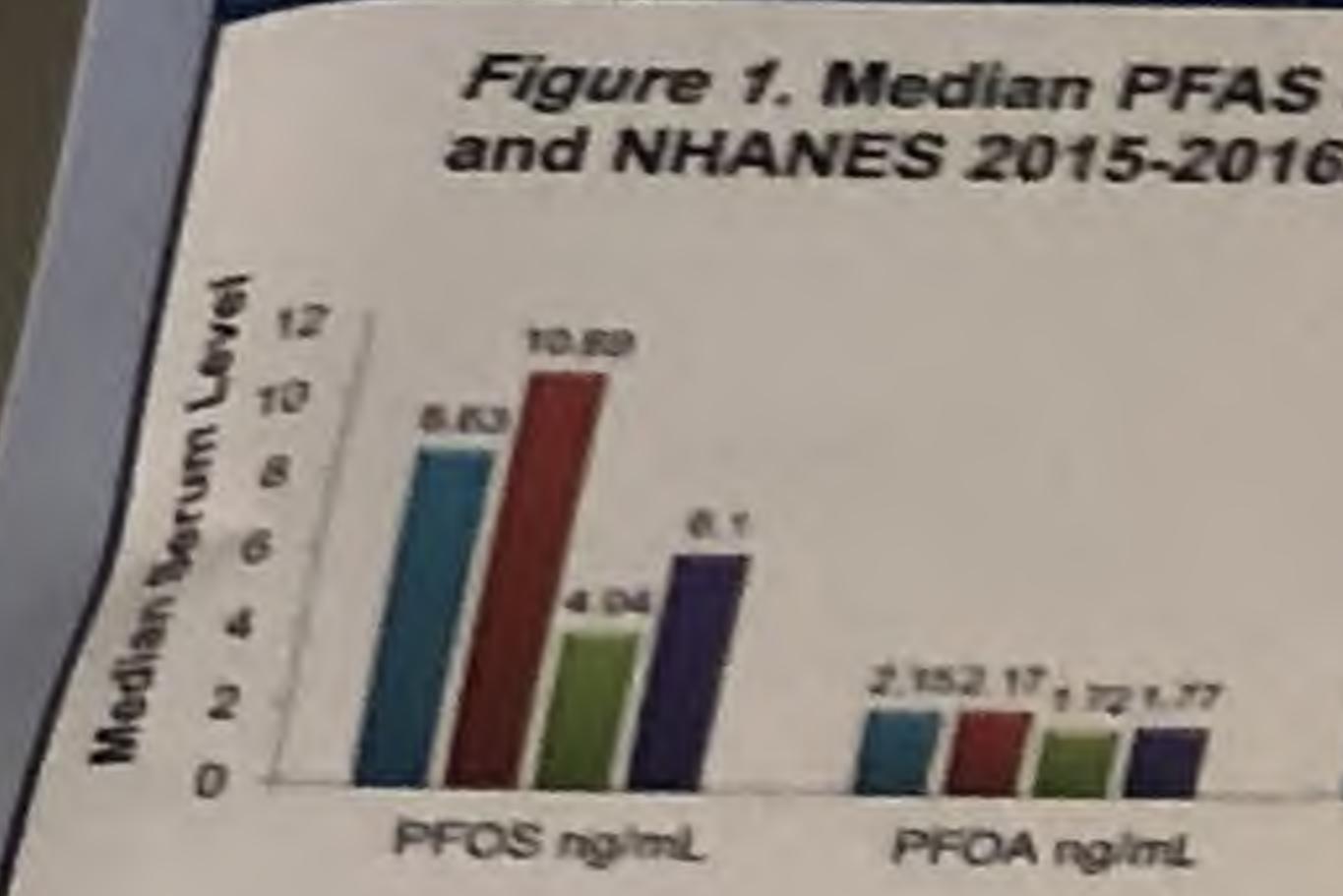
Our results suggest this relationship is unique between genders. Limited evidence from human and laboratory studies suggests that PFASs can impact renal function via toxicity on glomerular endothelial cells and oxidative stress in a sexually dimorphic manner.

In February 2019, the EPA announced their PFAS Action Plan to address PFAS and protect public health.

Future longitudinal studies can examine if expected declining US population PFAS exposure is reflected in renal function assessments.

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Perfluorochemicals (AFFF). Higher P compare are persis adverse c

Participants

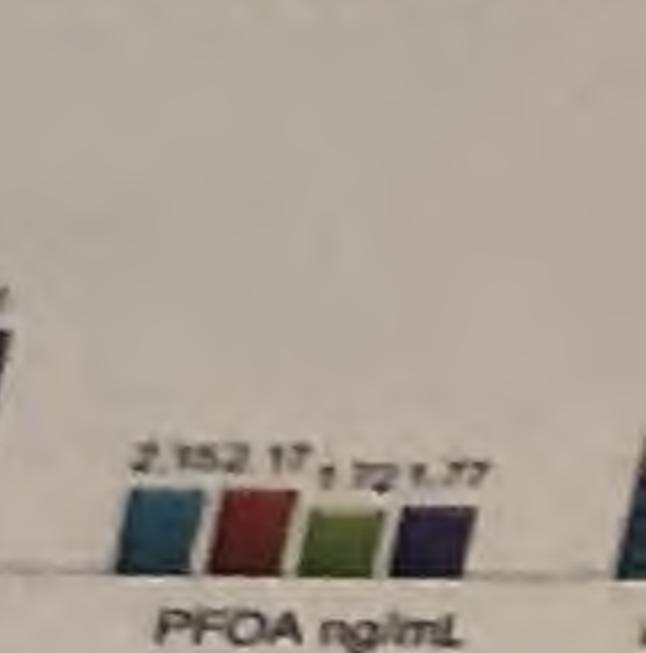
The cross section of 62 years at an average age of 46 years. Males aged 19 years and females aged 19 years. Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) Association between Metabolic Syndrome (MetS), prevalence of hypertension, and PFAS, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFHxS) and perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) evaluated using multivariate regression analysis.

Statistical Analyses

Data were analyzed using SPSS version 25.0 to test for statistical significance between gender differences in categorical variables (gender, race, ethnicity, education level, income, and marital status) and continuous variables (age, height, weight, and blood pressure). Whitney U test (for nonparametric data) and paired t-test (for parametric data) were used to assess statistical significance between gender differences in continuous variables. Spearman's rank correlation coefficient was set for all analyses.

Res

Figure 1. Median PFAS and NHANES 2015–2016.



WP: Wright-Patterson Air Force Base